

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:SWWORREL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

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EXDIS/SPECAT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO AMEMBASSIES ADDIS ABABA,
AMMAN, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, TEHRAN AND AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
FROM AMEMBASSY SANAA JULY 10, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T SANAA 1249

DEPT PASS CINCEUR AND SECDEF AS INFO PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, YE, SA, JO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS USG AGREEMENT TO
EMERGENCY DIRECT SALE OF US ARMS

REF: SANAA 1003, 1090, 1204

JIDDA 2573

DHAHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

KUWAIT PASS ABU DHABI AND MUSCAT

1. SUMMARY: CITING MOUNTING LEVEL OF PDRY FRONTAL MILITARY
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ASSAULTS ALONG BORDER, YARG'S CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF EQUIP-

MENT AND VIRTUAL EXHAUSTION OF AMMUNITION RESERVES, DISAPPOINTING SAG RESPONSES TO DATE TO YEMEN'S NEEDS, AND THREATENED RESIGNATION JULY 7 OF YARG'S TWO MOST SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS, PRIMIN HAJRI ASKED USG CONSIDER ON URGENT BASIS SALE AND AIRLIFT OF MOST VITALLY NEEDED LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION. SAID THAT WITH HELP OF UAE, YARG PREPARED PAY FOR NEEDED ARMS. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF YARG REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIMIN HAJRI ASKED TO SEE ME JULY 7 ON HALF HOUR'S NOTICE. ENSUING 90 MINUTE CONVERSATION WAS THE ROUGHEST I HAVE EXPERIENCED SINCE ARRIVAL LAST DECEMBER.

3. LOOKING WORN AND SOMEWHAT DESPERATE, PRIMIN SAID HAD EARLIER SAME MORNING BEEN CONFRONTED WITH THREATENED RESIGNATIONS OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF IRYANI AND DEPUTY CIC HAMDI. TWO COMMANDERS HAD REVIEWED EVOLUTION OF MILITARY SITUATION ALONG PFRY BORDER WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS AND PARTICULARLY LAST THREE DAYS. IN LATER PERIOD, PDRY HAD ESCALATED ITS ATTACKS SO THAT VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS FIREFIGHTS TAKING PLACE ALONG ENTIRE EASTERN SECTOR FROM HARIB TO KIRSH. YARG FORCES DAILY EXPENDITURE OF AMUNITION DURING PAST THREE DAYS HAD BEEN AT RATE OF 200,000 CARTRIDGES. (WE DOUBT ACCURACY YARG STATISTIC.) MILITARY COMMANDERS HAD REPORTED THAT VIRTUALLY LAST OF THEIR AMMUNITION RESERVES HAD BEEN ORDERED TO FRONTIER. THEY SAID

THEY PROCEEDING TO BORDER POSITIONS IN EFFORT ENSURE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF DWINDLING SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, WHEN THESE EXHAUSTED AND UNLESS PRESIDENT AND PRIMIN TOOK EFFECTIVE RESUPPLY ACTION, THEY COULD ACCEPT NO FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR NORTH YEMEN'S DEFENSES.

4. NOTING THAT DESPITE ALL YEMEN'S PLEAS TO USG, SAG AND OTHER FRIENDS, NO EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED EXCEPT SOME OBSOLESCENT T-34 S, PRIMIN SPOKE WITH
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PARTICULAR BITTERNESS OF SAG REPLY ON EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. SAYING THIS WAS IN EFFECT NO REPLY, HAJRI DESCRIBED QUANTITY OF ARMS BEING OFFERED AS SUFFICIENT TO OUTFIT QTE ONE SHAIKH UNQTE. JORDAN HAD ADMITTEDLY SHOWN WILLINGNESS BE HELPFUL BUT ITS CAPACITY TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT WAS VERY LIMITED. IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION, YARG HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN, AND COULD NOT SAFELY TURN TO

EGYPT OR LIBYA WITHOUT REVEALING ITS DEFENSELESSNESS
AND THEREBY ENCOURAGING EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE PDY
ATTACK.

5. REMARKING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO HIS
JUNE 17 DEMARCHE (SANAA 1090), HAJRI SAID YEMEN HAD
PLACED FAITH IN PAQT ASSURANCES THAT USG WISHED YEMEN
TO RECEIVE WHAT IT NEEDED TO DEFEND ITSELF. NOW IT
WAS AFRAID THAT USG NOT PREPARED TO QTE BE SERIOUS
UNQTE ABOUT YEMEN'S NEEDS. YARG, IN FACT, QTE
DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED UNQTE. IF WE WERE NOT PRE-
PARED TO HELP EFFECTIVELY, WE SHOULD SAY SO. IF WE
PREPARED HELP, WE SHOULD BE WILLING DO SO DIRECTLY.

6. I REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS SINCE VISIT OF SAUDI
GENERAL QABBANI BARELY TWO MONTHS AGO, SAYING THAT
WHILE YEMEN UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT NOTHING
YET IN HAND TO BOLSTER DEFENSES AGAINST PDY, MUCH
HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THIS WAS IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE AS A RESULT
OF US EFFORTS. SAG HAD PROVIDED AN EMERGENCY EQUIP-
MENT PACKAGE. WHILE THIS MIGHT NOT SEEM ADEQUATE
YEMEN IN RELATION TO ITS OWN ESTIMATE OF NEEDS, IT
WAS NEVERTHELESS TANGIBLE PROOF OF FRIENDS' WILLING-
NESS TO HELP. IN LONGER TERM, WE REASONABLY ASSURED
ON PROSPECTS FOR COMPLETE RE-EQUIPMENT AND RETRAIN-
ING OF YAR MILITARY FORCES. THESE WOULD BE LARGE
AND COSTLY UNDERTAKINGS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I
COULD NOT ACCEPT ACCUSATION THAT USG OR SAG NOT
SERIOUS IN THEIR INTENTIONS ASSIST YAR MILITA-
RYILY.

7. PRIMIN REPLIED THAT IF EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNI-
TION NEEDED BY YAR DID NOT COME IMMEDIATELY, THERE
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MIGHT NOT BE A LONG TERM. AS OF PRESENT MOMENT,
PDRO, AMPLY SUPPLIED BY USSR, IN POSITION OVERRUN
BORDER DEFENSES AND OCCUPY LARGE SECTIONS OF COUNTRY
FROM BAB EL MANDAB STRAITS UP TIHAMA TO TAIZ AND
NORTHWARD TO IBB AND DHAMAR. PINCERS MOVEMENT FROM
BAYDA AREA IN EAST COULD EASILY COMPLETE THIS SEI-
ZURE OF SOUTHERN ONE-THIRD OF COUNTRY.

8. PRIMIN REQUESTED THAT I ASK MY GOVERNMENT URGENTLY
CONSIDER AIRLIFTING EQUIPMENT
E E E E E E E

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